

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for controlling interactive television offerings over a transaction-enabled broadcast network, the apparatus comprising:

at least one central system processor of a multi-service operator, operative to: (i) receive broadcast content from a broadcast content source; (ii) process the broadcast content; (iii) transmit said processed broadcast content over said network to a viewer; (iv) receive request data over said network from said viewer, said data being transmitted by said viewer in response to said processed broadcast content; and (v) process said request data; wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative as a central point of control for said request data or interactive content contained within said broadcast content, and said central system processor collects information about viewer transactions for commerce purposes; and

memory, operatively coupled to the central system processor of a multi-service operator, for storing at least a portion of data related to at least one of the receiving, transmitting and processing steps.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said broadcast content from a broadcast source comprises advertising content.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said broadcast content from a broadcast source comprises program content.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to add interactive content to the broadcast content.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said added interactive content is advertising content.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said advertising content is added at the end of a group of commercials.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to collect and store previously broadcast content.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said previously broadcast content comprises advertisement content.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said previously broadcast content comprises interactive content.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said previously broadcast content is accessible by said viewer in conducting e-commerce.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said added interactive content specifies local purchasing information.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said broadcast content from a broadcast content source comprises interactive content.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to modify said interactive content.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said modification of interactive content is performed by an advertiser.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said modification of interactive content is performed by a network operator.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to selectively enable or disable said interactive content.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said request data comprises a universal resource locator (URL) and wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to redirect said URL.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said redirecting a URL further comprises reducing network congestion.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said redirecting a URL further comprises forwarding said URL to a local server for fulfillment.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said memory is operative to store data based on commerce conducted by the viewer over said network.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to formulate a table of viewer purchasing history data based on said stored data.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said data based on commerce conducted by the viewer over said network is collected from a broadcast receiving device of said viewer.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said broadcast receiving device comprises a set-top box.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to collect said data based on commerce conducted by the viewer during a period of low network load.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said stored data is accessible to said viewer over said network.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said stored data is accessible to a network operator.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said stored data is accessible to an advertiser.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to associate a personal identification number with the viewer.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein a unique personal identification number is associated with an individual viewer.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein a unique personal identification number is associated with a particular broadcast receiving device.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to securely store credit card information of said viewer.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said central system processor of a multi-service operator is further operative to store at least one ship-to address of said viewer.

33. (Currently amended) A retrofittable system for conducting e-commerce over a transaction-enabled broadcast network, said system comprising:

a broadcast receiving device operatively coupled to said network and configurable to enable a viewer to interact with an interactive broadcast; and

a local multi-service operator operatively coupled to said network, said local multi-service operator comprising a central system controller, said central system controller being

operatively configurable to tabulate commerce transactions occurring over said network, wherein the tabulation involves collecting transaction data for network operators.

34. (Currently amended) A retrofittable system for conducting e-commerce over a transaction-enabled broadcast network, said system comprising:

a broadcast receiving device operatively coupled to said network and configurable to enable a viewer to interact with a broadcast comprising interactive content; and

a local multi-service operator operatively coupled to said network, said local multi-service operator comprising a central system controller, said central system controller operatively configurable to selectively modify, enable or disable said interactive content, and said central system controller is capable of collecting information about viewer transactions for commerce purposes.

35. (Currently amended) A retrofittable system for conducting e-commerce over a transaction-enabled broadcast network, said system comprising:

a broadcast receiving device operatively coupled to said network and configurable to enable a viewer to interact with an interactive broadcast; and

a local multi-service operator operatively coupled to said network, said multi-service operator comprising a central system controller, said central system controller operatively configurable to add interactive content to non-interactive broadcast content, and said central system controller is capable of collecting information about viewer transactions for commerce purposes.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 35 wherein said central system controller is further operative to route request data from said viewer in response to said interactive broadcast to a server for fulfillment.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36 wherein said server is a local server.

38. (Original) The system of claim 35 wherein said broadcast content comprises multiple interactive content streams and wherein said broadcast receiving device is operative to filter said multiple interactive content streams.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38 wherein said filtering of multiple interactive content streams is based at least in part on the relevance of said interactive content streams to said viewer.

40. (Currently amended) A retrofittable system for conducting e-commerce over a transaction-enabled broadcast network, said system comprising:

a broadcast receiving device operatively coupled to said network and configurable to enable a viewer to interact with an interactive broadcast; and

a local multi-service operator operatively coupled to said network, said local multi-service comprising a central system controller, said central system controller operatively configurable to tabulate data based on commerce activities conducted by a viewer on said network, wherein the tabulation can be used by network operators for commerce purposes.

41. (Currently amended) A method of conducting e-commerce over a transaction-enabled broadcast network, said method comprising:

creating an advertisement comprising non-interactive content, said advertisement being broadcast over said network at an at least one central system controller processor of a multi-service operator; and

creating interactive content, said additional interactive content being selectively integrated with said non-interactive content according to a predetermined schedule at the at least one central system controller processor of a multi-service operator, wherein the at least one central system controller collects information about consumer transactions resulting from the interactive content, for commerce purposes.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 41 wherein said integrated content is selectively integrated using a processor of the central system controller.

43. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein said predetermined schedule is allocated into time slots.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said time slots are purchased by an advertiser from a multi-service operator.

45. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein said integrated content is broadcast to a predetermined local market.

46. (Currently amended) A method of conducting e-commerce over a transaction-enabled broadcast network, said method comprising:

creating broadcast content comprising conventional content and interactive advertising content for broadcast over said network at ~~at least one~~ a central system controller ~~processor of a multi-service operator~~; and

selectively broadcasting said interactive content by way of a central system controller according to a pre-specified agreement from the at least one central system ~~processor multi-service operator controller~~, wherein the at least one central system controller collects information about consumer transactions resulting from the interactive content, for commerce purposes.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein said agreement is made between an advertiser and multi-service operator.

48. (Currently amended) A method of conducting e-commerce over a transaction-enabled broadcast network, said method comprising:

creating broadcast content comprising conventional and interactive advertising content at an at least one central system processor of a multi-service operator;

broadcasting said broadcast content from the at least one central system processor of multi-service operator;

receiving request data over said network from a viewer at the at least one central system processor of a multi-service operator, said request data being transmitted by said viewer in response to said broadcast content; and

routing said request data to a local server for fulfillment from the at least one central system processor of a multi-service operator; and

collecting information about the transaction for commerce purposes.

49. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture for coordinating interactive television offerings over a transaction enabled broadcast network, the article comprising a computer readable medium containing one or more computer programs, wherein the computer readable medium comprises at least one central system processor of a multi service operator, which when executed implement the steps of:

receiving broadcast content from a broadcast content source;

processing the broadcast content;

transmitting said processed broadcast content over said network to a viewer;

receiving request data over said network from said viewer, said data being transmitted

by said viewer in response to said processed broadcast content; ~~and~~

processing said request data; and

collecting information about the transaction for commerce purposes.